

Please replace original Figure 2 with amended Figure 2 attached hereto. The substitute figure includes the required sequence identifier numbers for the sequences shown originally in Figure 2. A marked-up copy of the original Figure 2 is enclosed for the Examiner's review.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The HBV variant of claim 1, carrying a mutation in the nucleoside sequence encoding a DNA polymerase resulting in an amino acid addition, substitution and/or deletion in said DNA polymerase in one or more amino acids as set forth in Formula I and/or II:

FORMULA I

AI
L, B₁, B₂, D, W, G, P, C, B₃, B₄, H, G, B₅, H, B₆, I, R, B₇, P, R, T, P, B₈, R, V, B₉, G, G, V, F, L, V, D, K, N, P, H, N, T, B₁₀, E, S, B₁₁, L, B₁₂, V, D, F, S, Q, F, S, R, G, B₁₃, B₁₄, B₁₅, V, S, W, P, K, F, A, V, P, N, L, B₁₆, S, L, T, N, L, L, S* (SEQ ID NO:1)

wherein:

- B₁ is L, or R, or I
B₂ is E, or D
B₃ is T, or D, or A, or N, or Y
B₄ is E, or D
B₅ is E, or K, or Q
B₆ is H, or R, or N,
B₇ is I, or T
B₈ is A, or S
B₉ is T or R
B₁₀ is A, or T, or S
B₁₁ is R, or T
B₁₂ is V, or G

B₁₃ is S, or I, or T, or N, or V

B₁₄ is T, or S, or H, or Y

B₁₅ is R, or H, or K, or Q

B₁₆ is Q, or P;

and

FORMULA II

S Z₁ L S W L S L D V S A A F Y H Z₂ P L H P A A M P H L L Z₃ G S S G L Z₄ R Y V
A R L S S Z₅ S Z₆ Z₇ X N Z₈ Q Z₉ Z₁₀ X X X Z₁₁ L H Z₁₂ Z₁₃ C S R Z₁₄ L Y V S
L Z₁₅ L L Y Z₁₆ T Z₁₇ G Z₁₈ K L H L Z₁₉ Z₂₀ H P I Z₂₁ L G F R K Z₂₂ P M G Z₂₃
G L S P F L L A Q F T S A I Z₂₄ Z₂₅ Z₂₆ Z₂₇ Z₂₈ R A F Z₂₉ H C Z₃₀ Z₃₁ F Z₃₂ Y
M* D D Z₃₃ V L G A Z₃₄ Z₃₅ Z₃₆ Z₃₇ H Z₃₈ E Z₃₉ L Z₄₀ Z₄₁ Z₄₂ Z₄₃ Z₄₄ Z₄₅ Z₄₆ L L
Z₄₇ Z₄₈ G I H L N P Z₄₉ K T K R W G Y S L N F M G Y Z₅₀ I G (SEQ ID NO:2)

wherein:

X is any amino acid;

Z₁ is N or D;

Z₂ is I or P;

Z₃ is I or V;

Z₄ is S or D;

Z₅ is T or N;

Z₆ is R or N;

Z₇ is N or I;

Z₈ is N or Y or H;

Z₉ is H or Y;

Z₁₀ is G or R;

Z₁₁ is D or N;

Z₁₂ is D or N;

Z₁₃ is S or Y;

Z₁₄ is N or Q;

Z₁₅ is L or M;
Z₁₆ is K or Q;
Z₁₇ is Y or F;
Z₁₈ is R or W;
Z₁₉ is Y or L;
Z₂₀ is S or A;
Z₂₁ is I or V;
Z₂₂ is I or L;
Z₂₃ is V or G;
Z₂₄ is C or L;
Z₂₅ is A or S;
Z₂₆ is V or M;
Z₂₇ is V or T;
Z₂₈ is R or C;
Z₂₉ is F or P;
Z₃₀ is L or V;
Z₃₁ is A or V;
Z₃₂ is S or A;
Z₃₃ is V or L or M;
Z₃₄ is K or R;
Z₃₅ is S or T;
Z₃₆ is V or G;
Z₃₇ is Q or E;
Z₃₈ is L or S or R;
Z₃₉ is S or F;
Z₄₀ is F or Y;
Z₄₁ is T or A;
Z₄₂ is A or S;
Z₄₃ is V or I;
Z₄₄ is T or C;
Z₄₅ is N or S;
Z₄₆ is F or V;